

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN TO ACQUIRE CALIFORNIA BANK

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED AN INQUIRY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY REGARDING THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF AN INDONESIAN NATIONAL WHO HAS APPLIED TO PURCHASE A BANK IN CALIFORNIA. THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED IS MR. GUNADI GUNAWAN WHO ALSO HAS AN ENGLISH ALIAS, MR. GEORGE LEE, AND A CHINESE ALIAS MR. LIE MO KWANG.

2. THE COMPTROLLER INFORMS US THAT MR. GUNAWAN HOLDS THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE PAN INDONESIAN BANK WHICH WAS FORMED AS THE RESULT OF A MERGER IN 1971 OF THREE BANKS OWNED BY THE LIE FAMILY. HE WORKS CLOSELY WITH HIS INTERPRETER MR. JOHN CHAN WHO CONTROLS THE PAN IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP., HONG KONG (A SUBSIDIARY OF PAN INDONESIAN BANK), AND WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE 2 MILLION DOLS. IN PERSONAL ASSETS.

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3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BEAR ON MR. GUNAWAN'S APPLICATION TO PURCHASE THE CALIFORNIA BANK, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS HIS FINANCIAL POSITION. HABIB

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